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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q68182

Akimasa OHTA, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/050,949

Group Art Unit: 2167

Confirmation No.: 1988

Examiner: Joseph A. FISCHETTI

Filed: January 22, 2002

For: UNMANNED RETAIL SHOP SYSTEM AND METHOD OF PURCHASING GOODS

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GROUP 3600

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated June 14, 2004 in which the Examiner has required a restriction, Applicant responds by electing Group I, *i.e.*, claims 1-4, drawn to an automated retail store having goods. This election is made without prejudice to the filing of a divisional application directed to the non-elected claims.

Prompt and favorable action on the elected claims are now respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: July 13, 2004